

# TIGER TALES



## THE TISBURY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

May 2025

P.O. Box 878  
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568  
508-696-6500

Visit our website:  
[www.tisbury.mvyps.org](http://www.tisbury.mvyps.org)  
Information is updated  
routinely.



### *March to the Sea*

Our annual Memorial Day parade is just around the corner on Friday, May 23, 2025. Students will leave the school at **12:15 PM** and march to Owen Park via Spring Street and Main Street. The ceremony will take approximately forty-five minutes. Students will be dismissed from Owen Park at approximately **1:00 PM**. Busses will be parked on Main Street.



**Please instruct your children as to their directions following this early dismissal. Let them know how they will be getting home. If there are restrictions on who can pick up your children from school, we strongly urge you to attend the ceremony and be present to take them home. Also, please inform your children's teacher if your plans are different from their normal dismissal routine.**

As always, students in Grades K-8 should have a flower (or flowers) to carry in the parade and to throw in the harbor, commemorating those who have given their lives for their country. Our band will be playing and flags will be waving and we hope that you will come downtown to see the parade. Students in grade 8 will be helpers on the pier and with elementary classes.



### Principal's Letter

Tisbury School Community:

As the end of this school year approaches, we have much to reflect upon, celebrate, and feel grateful for. After several challenging years, the 2024-25 school year began with relief and joy because we were moving in to the renovated school. It has been fulfilling and gratifying to work with children in a building that was thoughtfully designed, for their needs. It cannot be overstated how thankful we are to all individuals, committees, departments, organizations, and businesses that made this project possible. For most, this school has exceeded expectations. We are incredibly fortunate.

The end of the school year includes, sadly, some goodbyes. Among these are staff members who are retiring or moving on from our community. 3rd grade teacher Anne Williamson retires this spring after teaching at the Tisbury School for over 30 years. Mrs. Williamson's positive spirit and enthusiasm stand out, and her pride in our school is strong and contagious. We will miss her next year, and wish her much happiness in her retirement. Education Support Professionals Amie Grim and Sarah Harris will move on from our school this spring as well. Both are United States Coast Guard families, they understand that moving is a part of military life. We will miss the Grim and Harris families, as their children also have been students at the Tisbury School.

K-8 schools allow staff and students to form meaningful bonds, especially for students who attend for all nine years. This is a wonderful aspect of our school, but it makes saying goodbye more challenging. As we prepare to graduate thirty-four 8th grade students in June, we are mindful of their positive impact on our school. The class endured much adversity in recent years, and we are therefore pleased that they had the opportunity to be in the renovated school during their final year before starting high school. Included in this 8th grade class are several students who joined us in September, or during this school year. They have come together and will graduate as one – the Tisbury School Class of 2025. Please join us if you are able, at the graduation ceremony on June 11 at 5:00 pm in the school gymnasium, as we celebrate them.

Our school is well-supported by so many in our community, and all support is appreciated. One group in particular that deserves special thanks is the Tisbury School Parent-Teacher Organization. This year, a handful of dedicated parents have stepped up and added new energy and life to the PTO efforts. Their thoughtful work demonstrates their care for our school, and we all benefit.

Our school pillars – Respect, Community, Responsibility, and Compassion – are evident every day in our school. Thank you for modeling, celebrating, and promoting these values.

With gratitude,  
John

### Just Moved?

Please be aware that it is necessary to notify our school if your family moves to a new address, so that we can accurately update our records. In particular, if your family has moved out of Tisbury since the 2024-25 school year started, it is important that you share this information with us. The deadline to apply for School Choice admission is June 15 for students who do not live in Tisbury and have not already been accepted through School Choice.

If you need to update your physical and/or mailing address, simply call the Tisbury School office at 508-696-6500.

## 1st Grade News

First graders are becoming quite the mathematicians. They have been working hard to memorize their addition and subtraction math facts.

Congratulations to Jemma, Heitor, Mariana, and Calebe for memorizing their addition facts to 10. A BIG SHOUT out to Cecil, Jaxon, Felix, Nyah, Camilla, Violet, Khloe, Ava, Sam, and Felix Hall for learning their subtraction facts to 10! Keep up the great work!

Mrs. Krauthamer and  
Mrs. Webster

### Addition Superstars!

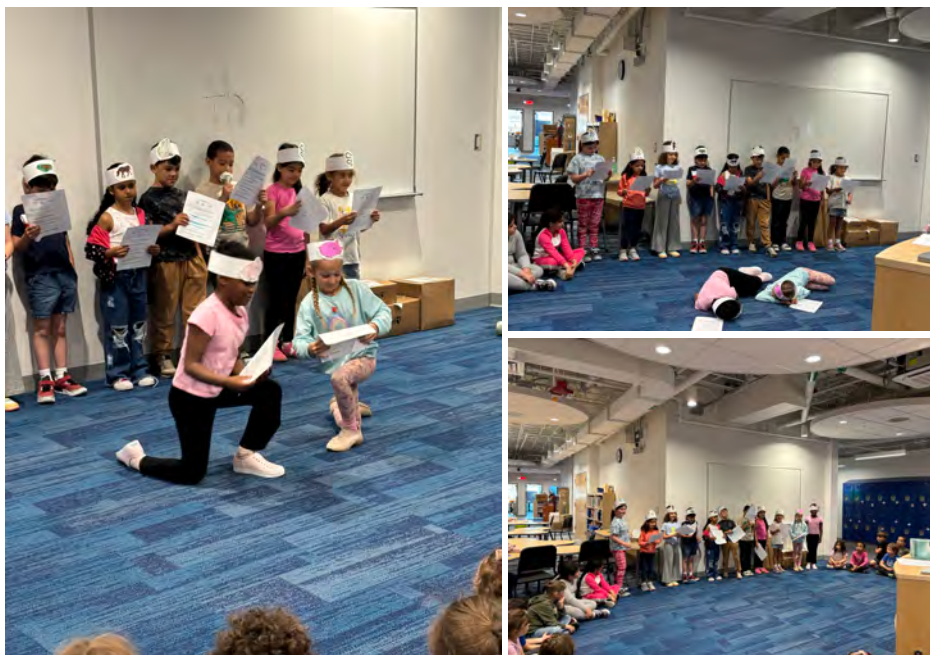


### Subtraction Superstars!



### The Sleeping Pig

Mrs. Webster's first graders have worked really hard on the play, "The Sleeping Pig". They gave a performance for Kindergarten on Friday, May 9th.





## 3rd Grade News

### Local and Global Habitats

Did you know that shellfish are harvested in saltwater or that the Ocean covers 71% of the Earth? Tisbury School third graders learned the answers to these local and global facts in extra special ways.

In honor of the Island Grown Initiative food of the month (fish), Mr. Custer enlightened and delighted the third grade by demonstrating how to open (shuck) oysters, scallops, and quahogs. Yes, a few students gasped when they watched him slurp a couple down but we all agreed that he deserved a delicious treat after shellfishing on a rainy Sunday to collect fresh shellfish for our lesson. The shellfish surprise concluded with an exciting challenge of counting how many scallops Mr. Custer could open in one minute. (8!!) As an added bonus, Mr. Custer thanked us for being a captive audience and for writing him appreciative notes by giving everyone in our class a MV Striped Bass and Bluefish hat or T-Shirt. Third graders love our principal, our island, and our supportive community!

During the month of April, third graders independently researched the major biomes of the world and created engaging projects to show their learning. Students shared their work and their knowledge in front of an audience of parents. Mrs. Williamson would like everyone to know that thinks the WORLD of her students!

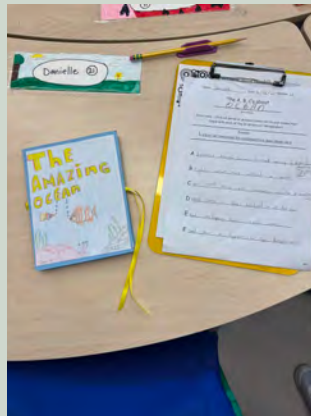
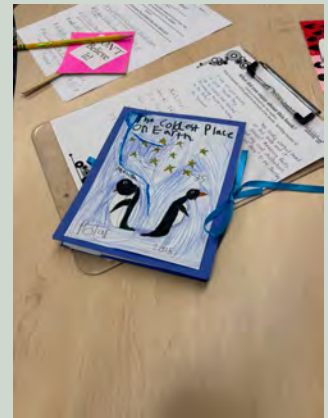
Mrs. Anne Williamson



### Habitat Book Presentation

This spring, each student researched and wrote nonfiction books about one of the world's habitats. The interactive books were on display in the classroom. Students did a great job presenting their books to parents and school staff.

Ms. Nicole Shirley



## Tisbury Garden News

The sun is shining and Spring has sprung!  
We will be planting seeds and seedlings in our new garden beds all month.  
The 3rd grade's peas are taller by the minute, and are being lovingly tended and measured weekly.

4th grade Spanish classes are starting their bed of traditional foods from Mexico after spending much of the winter learning about them and starting all the seeds themselves...amaranth, Oaxacan tomatoes, tomatillos, cempasuchil (marigolds), tiger eye beans, and jalapeno peppers.

Kindergarten has started some pots of sunflowers on their new back patio.  
The 5th grade classes will be planting a traditional Indigenous bed of the Three Sisters--corn, beans and squash.

The 2nd grade will be having their seedling sale at the end of the month.  
Stay tuned for more info. The sale will take place during Wellness Week.

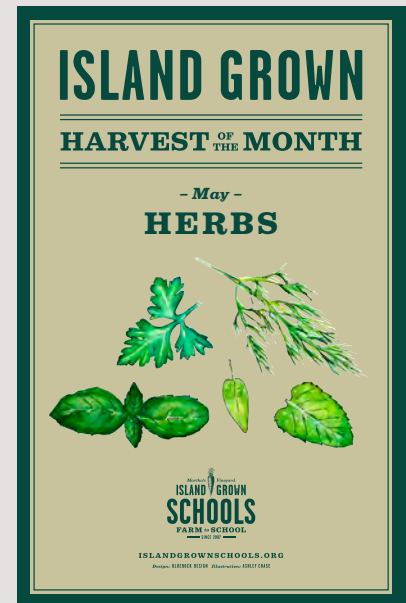
The Harvest of the Month is herbs.

Last month the 7th grade Social Studies students learned about the history and mythology connections of herbs from Ancient Greece and will be planting an herb garden. Oregano, lemon balm, thyme, mint and rosemary, sage and more. They all were used as food and medicine in ancient Greece!

Students can visit the media center to do an activity of exploring and smelling herbs and trying to connect them to their correct names.

Congratulations to 5th grader Sajhaun Wilson, who won last month's trivia question :*How many bay scallops can Mr. Custer shuck in one minute?*

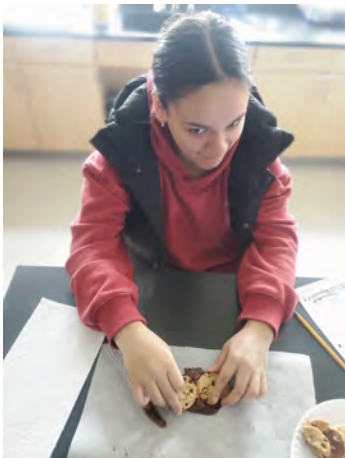
Sajhaun entered the correct answer, 10 (even though Mr. Custer only shucked 8 in one minute when he was under the watchful eyes of the 3rd grade).



## 7th and 8th Grade Science

### 7th Grade Science

Our 7th graders are in a unit titled "Weather and Water". They are studying the layers of the atmosphere, air pressure and what affects the weather patterns we see on Earth. We are looking forward to a trip to Felix Neck on May 21st and a trip to Penikese Island in early June.



### 8th Grade Science

The 8th graders have been working on Earth Science topics such as mapping earthquakes, tectonic plate movements, ocean floor mapping and a review of the rock cycle. They enjoyed making sedimentary, metamorphic and igneous rocks in a lab with Starbursts just before April vacation. We are also reviewing for the 8th grade science MCAS test which will be administered on May 19th.

Sue Adamo  
7/8 Science





## Spanish News



During the last month **Kindergarten** learned about feelings and springtime. We read books about animals and they practiced by playing games.



**First graders** learned vocabulary of the weather in Spring. They listened to the stories and participated actively in our class.

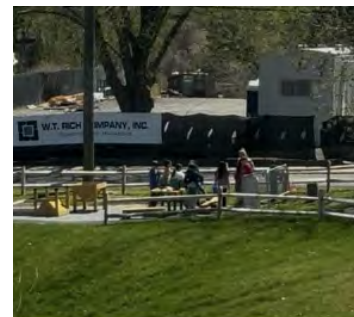
**Second graders** learned about traditions in South America during Easter time. They listened to Spanish songs and stories. They loved freeze dance.

**Third graders** continue with our routine. We started at the library. We had been reading books about animals. The kids are very engaged. We practiced in our class with songs and interactive activities.

**Fourth graders** learned about clothes, food and seeds from South America. At the end of the month they were planting seeds in our “Salsa garden” with our amazing Sam Greene. We are excited to see them growing. We will get our own Tiger bean.

**Fifth graders** practice adjectives, compare and contrast. They learned about an easter tradition in Guatemala.”Las alfombras” (carpets) They memorized the song “De colores”. Practiced some Math skills in Spanish.

**Sixth graders** practiced more about verbs. They had conversations about likes and dislikes. They started the class with a dance activity.



**Seventh graders** practiced verbs by listening to interactive stories and responding to questions. They started reading more in Spanish independently.

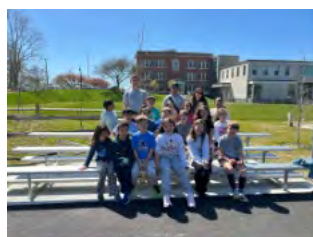
**Eighth graders** were pretty busy this month. They finished a placement test in Spanish. Portuguese speakers finished the Portuguese test. Most of them are excited about the language program at the high school. I am proud of our students. Gracias!

Lorena Crespo  
K-8 Spanish

## Health Education

Most grades are into their final units of the school year! **Kindergarten** is working through their safety unit by identifying safety signs in our school, community and the greater world. They are also learning hand signals to be better prepared to ride their bikes and scooters in the coming months.

**1st grade** finished their unit on fire safety and put their classroom lessons into practice: they identified tools on a fire truck, which tools are safe for them to use vs. the fire department, got to see the firefighter gear in-person and sprayed the fire hose. We are thankful to Tisbury Fire Chief Patrick Roston, Lieutenant James Cleary and Paramedic/Firefighter Jason Davey for making this unit not only possible but an anchor experience for 1st graders.



**2nd graders** completed part of their safety unit with a visit from the folks at the Tisbury Ambulance. Students explored tools on the ambulance: a stretcher, an AED, ice packs, gauze, a triangle bandage and the "first-in" bag. We are thankful to Paramedic

Supervisor Jason Davey, EMT Ashley Wood and EMT Tad Medeiros for joining us. All of these folks attended Tisbury School at one point during their elementary years - we were excited to welcome them to our finished building project.

**6th graders** continue to learn about body systems in health class. This year's group got to use a poly-bones skeleton kit to complete a skeletal system relay. Students had to identify 12 different bones and correctly build a skeleton. We also identified different types of fractures. We are moving into the muscular system and students are curious about how muscles connect to bones and support our bodies throughout our daily lives



**7th graders** completed their food and financial literacy unit with a visit from Josh Aronie and Becky Minnich of The Food Truck. In preparation for this, students created their own menus and designed their own food trucks to show Josh and Becky.



## May is Mental Health Awareness Month



### TALK

Talk with your children about their mental health. Make topics around mental health, stress, anxiety, fear and feelings common in your home and in your child's life.

#weALLhaveMentalHealth



### TRUST

Trust your gut; you know your child best! If you believe your child is struggling or needs help, trust that feeling.

#NoHealthWithoutMentalHealth



### ROLE MODEL

Show your children it is ok to talk about and care for their mental health by taking care of yourself.

#ChildrensMentalHealthMatters

## MENTAL HEALTH FOR CHILDREN

### *What Parents Can Do*

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH, FFCMH.ORG • THE YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT, YMHPROJECT.ORG



### ASK FOR HELP

Get a referral to a mental health specialist, if needed. Provide your child with every opportunity to receive treatment and support – just as you would for a broken arm or a fever.



### CONNECT

You are not alone; 1 in 5 children experiences a mental health condition. Connect with other families who can offer support, help and resources.



### TEAM UP

Build a team with the professionals and child-serving systems involved in your child's life. An open and honest dialogue with teachers, coaches, doctors and others will give them the information they need to support your child.



## May Is Women's Health Month

“My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style.”

-Maya Angelou

## Wellness Committee

Next Wellness  
Committee Meeting  
**May 8th at 3:00PM**

Tisbury Wellness Week is May 27th-30th  
Look for wellness-related activities coming your way:

- Wellness Lunch
- Homework Free Night
- Walk or Bike to School
- Plant Sale
- Tech Free Night
- Limit Single Use Plastics



## Summer Sports Program



Hello families-

After 4 long years my Summer Sports Program will be returning! If you are looking for something for your child to do this summer to keep them active, this is it! This is not a school sanctioned activity so if you would like more details, please contact me at [coachnicholsmv@yahoo.com](mailto:coachnicholsmv@yahoo.com)

Thank you!  
Coach Nichols



## NURSE'S NOTES

**8th Graders moving on to high school in the fall:** Please make sure you have had a physical in the last 12 months. This is required as you transition to a new school. Call your healthcare provider today!

# ART

**Kindergarten** molded pinch pots, imprinted flowers and glazed pots with analogous colors (colors near each other on the color wheel).

**First Grade** crafted 3D tissue paper flowers for Mother's Day, by layering colors and scrunching each layer.

**Second and Third grade** rendered and painted watercolor flowers, using wet on wet and dry techniques.

**Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Grade** has been practicing making 3D block letters, and investigating one point perspective in a landscape. It's quite impressive the fourth grade could understand this advanced skill of making things look farther away in the distance!

**Seventh Grade** has made mugs with slab construction and imprinted textures, letters, or an outline of the island. All mugs use lead free and dinnerware safe glaze.

**Eighth Grade** has been constructing bridges for an engineering/ weight bearing challenge! Whose design will hold the most weight? Tension, compression, force and load were investigated before the design process in conjunction with Science class.

